revenue has been earned during this year on this account; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government during the last few years to provide facilities to such pilgrims keeping in view their increasing number at Vaishno Devi and what are the outlines of the plan for further development?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The statistics of pilgrims who visited Vaishno Devi during the period from October 1992 to January 1993 are not yet available from the State Government. The revenue earned from pilgrims are not being estimated.

(b) The development of tourism infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has identified Vaishno Devi as one of the pilgrim centres for providing infrastructural facilities and a sum of Rs. 45 lakhs has been sanctioned for the construction of a yatri niwas at Bhawan and Rs. 10.38 lakhs for providing tented accommodation at Katra and Bhawan during 1992-93. The future plan for further development include financial assistance for the construction of a pilgrim shed at Katra and tourist complex at Devamai.

Agreement with striking pilots of Indian Airlines

2. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what were the main demands of the I.C.P.A. which conducted the Pilots' strike in the Indian Airlines;

(b) what are the outstanding issues and whether Government has reached an agreement with them;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would be in a position to restore all the flights that were used to be operated before the strike began;

(e) what are the other details in this regard; and

(f) what measures Government propose to take curb the tendency of Indian Airlines staff/engineers to resort to strikes agitations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The main demands of the Indian Commercial Pilots Association as mentioned in their strike notice dated 24th November, 1992 inclusive reduction in basic pay of Commanders, violation of existing awards and settlement regarding career pattern, Management not meeting its commitments/obligations regarding flying hours, and creation of fear psyshosis. The strike was called off by Indian Commercial Pilots' Association unconditionally on 24-01-1993.

(d) and (e) Flights upto 78 per cent have already been restored by February 12. Full normalcy is likely to be restored by mid-April, 1993 depending upon crew availability and traffic build-up response.

(f) Bilateral talks are held by the management to discuss and resolve various issues raised by the unions. Unresolved issues, wherever necessary, are referred to the prescribed authorities for conciliation/arbitration. The Indian Airlines management, while ameliorating genuine grievances of the employees, is committed to enforcing discipline.

Payment of voluntarily retired employees of I.T.D.C. Hotels

3. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL

AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details with number of employees of ITDC hotels in New Delhi and Calcutta who have been sent out during the last one year under ITDCs Voluntary Retirement Scheme along with total amount of expenditure incurred by each of the hotels in the above two cities;

(b) whether it is a fact that services and operational structures in these hotels have been adversely affected during this period due to the absence of this staff;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of the staff who opted for the VRS and were released about eighth months ago have not so far been given their final payments;

(d) whether any investigations have been ordered in this regard;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what further action Government propose to take to ensure final payment to the concerned employees without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) 578 employees of various hotels in Delhi and 4 employees of Hotel Airport Ashok Calcutta have sought retirement under the 'Voluntary Retirement Scheme of ITDC' introduced during the year 1992. The total amount payable to these employees on account of compensation, leave encashment, notice pay etc. is worked out at Rs. 485.68 lakhs.

(b) ITDC Management has taken appropriate steps to make internal adjustments and redeployment of the staff.

(c) The required payment could not be made by ITDC to some employees for non-submission of 'No Demand Certificate' and non-completion of other formalities.

(d) to (f) ITDC Management has again issued instructions to its units to take urgent steps to expedite the settlement of claims of the employees who have sought Voluntary Retirement.

Losses due to operation of Air taxies

4. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is facing stiff competition from Air Taxi operators;

(b) if so, whether Indian Airlines have suffered losses or profits on routes where air taxies are operating; and

(c) what are the details of routes where Government have permitted private operators to operate?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines has suffered marginal loss due to operation of Air taxi service

(c) Air Taxi operators' permit holders are free to operate to any station in the country open for scheduled operations with the approval of Airport Authorities.

Visit of foreign tourists to India

5. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign tourists who have arrived in the country, so far, during the current year;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the tourists arrival during the said period; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange spent on tourism publicity during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourists who visited